

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01464 220908Z

ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9467

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1464

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TATT, MPOL, PCAT, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH O WON CHUL

1. FURTHER BACKGROUND FOR YOUR MEETING WITH SECRETARY PERRY.

I TALKED TO O WON CHUL THIS MORNING ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. O INDICATED GREAT PLEASURE WITH THE VISIT AND SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY PLEASED WITH O'S REPORT ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY PERRY. WE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE LIST OF SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN MENTIONED TO THE SECRETARY. O INDICATED THAT NOT ALL OF THEM WOULD NECESSARILY SEE FRUITATION BY WHICH I ASSUME HE MEANT HE HAD NOT APPROVED ALL OF THE POSSIBLE PROJECTS. I EXPLAINED TO THIM THAT WE TOO HAD A REVIEW PROCESS AND THAT SOME OF THESE IDEAS MIGHT THEREFORE FALL OUT.

2. O WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THREE POINTS:

A. THE QUALITY OF ROK DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAD NOTED SOME PROBLEMS, IN LIGHT OF ROK'S PROVEN CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE QUALITY GOODS, I DID NOT CONSIDER THIS TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM.

B. OPPORTUNITY TO PRODUCE LOW-LEVEL HARDWARE AND AMMO FOR SALE TO THE U.S. OR THIRD COUNTRIES. I TOLD HIM

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THIS WAS AN ISSUE THAT WAS STILL BEING CONSIDERED, BUT THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH DRSM PERRY AND GARBER WHILE THEY WERE HERE.

C. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS ABOVE AND BEYOND THAT INCLUDED IN DEA'S. I TOLD HIM THAT I THOUGHT THERE WERE SOME POSSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA IN LIGHT OF THE COMMENTS

THAT DR. PERRY HAD MADE BOTH TO HIM AND TO OTHERS.

3. O ENDED THE CONVERSATION ON DEFENSE INDUSTRIES BY MAKING A STRONG PLEA FOR PRIORITY DELIVERY ON TANK KITS FOR THE UPGRADING OF THE M-48. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TANKS HAD BEEN DISASSEMBLED AND WERE READY FOR THE KITS AND HOPED THAT AT LEAST TEN SETS COULD BE DELIVERED VERY SOON.

4. I ALSO DISCUSSED KORI 3 AND 4 WITH HIM AS YOU WILL SEE IN SEPTEL.

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